

SAYS BOOK TRUST IS "REASONABLE"

Committee Says It Violates Contracts, but Is of Service to Public—Love Approves It.

The Virginia Book Company exercises control over the distribution of school books in this State, according to the report made on this subject by the special committee of the House of Delegates yesterday. In this sense, the concern is a trust. Much of the report goes over ground already covered by reports of the committee, which the committee held. The report is signed by Chairman S. T. A. Kent and W. A. Willer, while a minority report is presented by S. H. Love. In view of the tone of both papers, it is regarded as improbable that the Legislature will proceed further in this matter.

However, there is some violation of contracts by the publishers. The concern gets 20 per cent. for its work in handling the entire situation. The local dealers get 10 per cent. The committee believes that more local money should be allowed to handle the books. The tendency of the company is to lessen the number. There is a conflict, the committee believes, between the contracts of the Virginia Book Company and the publishers and between the latter and the State Board of Education.

Still the committee cannot see how the existence of the Virginia Book Company and its methods of doing business can possibly affect school public policy, and it says that the methods of distribution of books is much improved because of the organization of this concern.

The Virginia Book Company is not a trust, according to Mr. Love's minority report. Its success is a matter of surprise, and it is of great benefit, he thinks, to the schools of Virginia.

HOUSE CONSIDERS TAX REFORM BILL

(Continued from first page.)

hall of the House of Delegates. This side feels that it is still entitled to four hours of time on an equal division. In addition to whatever time may be consumed in closing by Rev. James Cannon and Rev. J. D. McAllester, who will make the concluding remarks. So it is doubtful if the hearing can be ended to-night.

Book Company Report.

The report of the special committee appointed to investigate the Virginia Book Company was largely along the lines stated in The Times-Dispatch yesterday. It has some criticisms to make on the methods of doing business, and has suggestions as to betterments. It cannot, however, see how the continuance of the practices of the company can effect school public policy. In fact, it finds that conditions have improved since its formation.

In his minority report, Mr. Love says that the Virginia Book Company is not a trust, but merely the agent of the publishers. Its operations, he thinks, are a distinct benefit to the schools of Virginia.

The anti-gambling bill emerged again from the Committee on General Laws yesterday morning, but with many of its features cut out. It still prohibits playing any game for money, but no longer refers to betting, nor does it give concurrent jurisdiction to circuit and magistrates' courts in gambling cases. Its patron, Mr. Stephenson, of Bath, will secure another test vote, he says, before he gives up the fight.

Stomach Always Feels Fine

Eat and Drink What You Want Whenever You Want It.

Don't you know that a whole lot of this indigestion, dyspepsia, gastritis, catarrh of the stomach talk is all nonsense.

Don't you know that fermentation of food in the stomach causes nearly all stomach troubles.

Don't you know that M-I-O-N-A Stomach Tablets, compounded from the best prescription for stomach distress ever written, will put your trouble making stomach in fine condition, or money back.

M-I-O-N-A Stomach Tablets give almost instant relief. Take them for gas, sourness, heaviness, heartburn, or after dinner distress. Keep them with you and take them regularly until your stomach is strong and vigorous. Large box 50 cents at Tragle Drug Co.'s and druggists everywhere.

Our Annual Clearance Sale Starts Wednesday, February 1st.

And we are going to dispose of a

CHOICE LOT OF FURNITURE

Floor Coverings and Stoves at 20%, 30% and 40% Discount.

Make your selections early and get the pick.

Jones Bros. & Co., Inc.

1418-20 East Main

Ask Grocers, Druggists Dealers for POMPEIAN LUCIA OLIVE OIL Genuine—Pure—Healthful

RHEUMATIC PEOPLE Why pay money and still suffer? Try our M-I-O-N-A FOR GOOD BLOOD

"Berry's for Clothes"



Here's one of the stars in the firmament of fashion.

A double-faced all-wool, warm, minus-weight overcoat; striped seams, bellows pockets, padless shoulders, cut in ample folds, straight back, full chesty effect.

Odd patterns and peculiar weaves, heavy, fuzzy and woolly, not many of them, but enough for wide awake men who want to save \$12.25—the \$35 Coats are \$22.75.

Other styles and grades, of course.

\$15 Overcoats at \$9.75.

\$50 Overcoats at \$35.

Cinches!

C. S. Berry

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HOUSE

Among the bills reported favorably to the House from committees yesterday were three from General Laws—amending the hotel inspection law by making it apply to hotels of more than seven rooms instead of more than five, and making the inspection fees more elastic; the Pittsburgh bill providing treating in saloons; the anti-gambling bill, with very important amendments.

Mr. Houston read a petition from the Retail Merchants' Association, of Elizabeth City county, asking for the passage of the Byrd Tax Commission bill.

The majority and minority reports of the special committee appointed to investigate the Virginia Book Company were filed and ordered printed.

The Senate bill amending the charter of the town of Warrenton, was taken up out of its order. On motion of Mr. Weaver, the constitutional reading of the measure, and Mr. Cox was passed.

Tax Bill Considered.

The hour of 12:30 having arrived, the Tax Commission bill, made the special order, was read by the clerk. The House agreed to go into committee of the whole for consideration of the measure, and Edwin F. Cox was elected chairman of the committee.

Addressing the committee, Richard Evelyn Byrd said he desired the matter thoroughly discussed from the standpoint of the good of the State, and that when the measure passes it should be the tax bill of the House of Delegates of Virginia and not of any individual. To that end, when changes in it were agreed to, he would move that it be recommended to the Committee on Finance, for redrafting in accordance with the ideas of a majority of the House.

Conditions of Mr. Byrd have become a byword in Virginia. A reform was imperative.

Segregation, in his opinion, constituted the ideal reform. If it were possible to divide the sources and expenditures of revenue so that each locality could regulate its own assessments and tax rate, without affecting the State or any other locality, he would gladly support it. But assessments are so unequal at present that segregation was impossible without grave injustice to many counties in the State. At present it was not a practical solution, but would become so after a few years of equalization.

Initial Clause Fought.

Mr. Byrd read the first clause of the first section of the bill, this being the only feature considered throughout the day. It is as follows:

That enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, that the State Tax Commission be, and the same is hereby created to be composed of the Governor, the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate, the chairman of the Finance Committee of the House, the chairman of the State Corporation Commission, the Attorney-General, the Auditor of Public Accounts and the State Tax Commissioner hereinafter provided for."

The Speaker said he was fully aware that there was quite a powerful sentiment in favor of a commission composed of Virginia, that he would vote all their time to the work, instead of the honorary membership of State officials. The extra salaries, said Mr. Byrd, would be but a drop in the bucket, and he would make no fight against such a change. If the

House saw fit to adopt the change as suggested, he would accept it.

Should Be Three Men.

Hill Montague, who, with Walter Tensell Oliver, has prepared a bill providing for three commissioners, addressed the committee. He said that the Legislature is met at the outset with the statement that the State has no money, and that there is a crying necessity for tax reform. The salary question was of no moment in so great a work. He thought one commissioner would exercise too much power, and that if it had been thought wise to give the State Corporation Commission three members to assess the property of public service companies, certainly there should be as many to supervise assessments of individual property.

There were to be a commission at all, said Hugh A. White, of Rockbridge, there certainly would be three members. In the first place, no one could get real service without paying for it. Then, the executive and judicial powers were too much mixed. The Attorney-General might be called upon to prosecute violations of rules which he himself had framed, and the Governor to pardon violators of laws which he had framed. Man in charge of such work should be well paid and give their undivided time.

Wants Segregation.

But he thought the whole proposition an effort to go back 150 years and continue segregation, which he said, would settle the problem at one stroke.

Mr. Houston favored the three-man proposition. He believed that the State was facing an important epoch, and felt that it was for her best interests. Then S. H. Love, of Lunenburg, got to the floor, with a speech which, from the heart, he opposed arming men with signal powers such as proposed. He thought if commissioners of the State do not do their duty, State officials should not be given such powers. He regretted the tendency in old Virginia to place power in a single man, which he called despotism.

In passing, he referred to the "unlimited, boundless power given to the Board of Education, which has placed the collar of educational servitude upon the people of this old State." A protest against this power, he said, is going up from the Potomac to the Dan.

Pleads for Freedom.

Eloquently he told of the Washington Monument, and of the figure of Patrick Henry, pleading for freedom. Complimenting the monument, he said it wisely showed Jefferson with a quill pen, instead of a fountain pen. He pleaded with the Legislature to let Virginia remain under those laws which have helped her to such greatness. He would not accept three commissioners didn't want any of them.

Mr. Throckmorton asked Mr. Love what he thought of the situation when his farm is assessed at \$5 an acre, and is worth about 10, and the property of the Virginian Railway close by is assessed at one-eighth its value. The Speaker then announced that it was his intention to make a provision that railroad property should be assessed along with others.

Mr. Love closed with a passionate appeal not to so change the old seal and flag of Virginia as to put on the collar of the State Board of Education and the shackles of a Tax Commission, and change the motto to "Virginia in servitude."

LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

By LEWIS H. MACHEN.

TAXATION—III.

As was expected, the first broadside fired against the Byrd Tax Commission bill was aimed at its centralizing features. The benefits of local self-government were extolled and the horrors and dangers of concentrating power in a State commission were dwelt upon.

There has been an ocean of talk from time to time on the subject of so-called government by commission; yet all of the States have gradually come to the conclusion that commissions of various kinds are essential to an effective government of any kind. The same idea has also grown as respects the Federal government. Experience has shown that for the exercise of many of the important functions a commission is admirably adapted.

No commission can justify its existence unless it is clothed with powers in a concentrated form which were formerly diffused. The essence of every commission, therefore, is the centralization of power, duty and responsibility.

When the general government, or any of the State governments, proposed a commission to exercise a certain function, the commission was established by a board of equalization, and that only four States of which Virginia is one, are wholly without boards of equalization. Necessarily, if segregation is to be adopted, it will be necessary to put it into effect at least a period sufficiently remote to allow the several localities to adapt their assessments to the new conditions. The State, too, would need it necessary to increase the assessment upon those forms of property from which it will derive its revenues. The transition would doubtless prove violent and produce one of those shocks to the body politic which it is the part of statesmanship to avoid.

Moreover, there is not sufficient data at hand for the basis of any rational and practical plan of segregation. No one has yet undertaken to make a definite scheme. At best, it would be founded upon estimates and built up by guesswork. On the other hand, there is information enough to value for a program of equalization, and that is the logical movement at this time.

The manner of constituting the commission, as indicated in this column yesterday, is a very pertinent subject of discussion. The House, in committee, has yet to decide upon a plan to favor a commission of three, or give their whole time to the work, and be paid accordingly. This has many advantages, but probably the best plan proposed by the bill, whether the members of the commission should be elected by the legislature or by the people, is yet to be decided. The error on his sole responsibility, or subject to confirmation by the Senate, would be a serious one. The course, be carefully considered. Perhaps the Legislature will be inclined to elect the commission; yet it is more likely that the appointment of the Governor, subject to the approval of the Legislature, would secure the best results. When the two prime questions are the question of establishing a commission and of selecting its members have been disposed of, the body politic will be left with a series of compromises.

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To Protect Populace.

The proposed law, said Senator Featherston, increases the fine from \$20 to \$50 for the first offense, and increases the term of imprisonment to a year and a day for a second offense. It is directed against the lawless element, especially negroes employed in public works, who molest and annoy the white population. The Senator told of several

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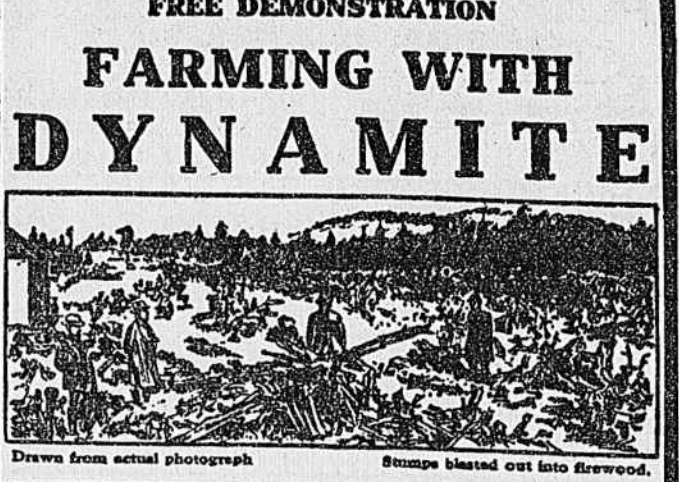
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FREE DEMONSTRATION

FARMING WITH DYNAMITE



Drawn from actual photograph. Stumps blasted out into firewood.



Drawn from actual photograph. Ten months later—\$100.00 worth of celery per acre.

Come and learn the modern, quick, cheap and safe way to use the giant force of dynamite to

Remove Stumps and Boulders. Plant Trees. Dig Ditches. Break Up Subsoils and Make Old Farms Produce Big Crops.

RED CROSS DYNAMITE

Will Be Demonstrated on the Farm of

W. King Davis, one mile East of Marmora,

February 1, 1:30 P. M.

Red Cross Dynamite is sold by J. E. Perkinson & Company.

Agricultural Blaster Wanted.

Plenty of interesting and profitable work to be done for farmers who do not want to do their own blasting. We will teach you the work and help you get it. If interested attend this demonstration and tell our representative you want to learn blasting. He will show you how.

eral cases of this nature which occur recently in this country. The small fine imposed by the present law, he said, had no effect in reducing the evil.

On motion the bill was passed by a vote of 10 to 4, and the House adjourned.

Senator Saunders thought that the bill should contain some provision which would free bank cashiers and their assistants from several features of the proposed law.

Treasurer Bill Friday.

Senator Throckmorton moved that House bill No. 29, which provides for a re-submission to the people of the State of the question of a constitutional amendment enabling treasurers in the State to succeed themselves in office, be made the special business of the Senate at 12 o'clock to-morrow.

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Senator Throckmorton moved that House bill No. 29, which provides